

## MEMPHIS SHELTER ADVISORY BOARD WORK SESSION:

November 16, 2011

Those present: Janet Hooks, Director, Public Services and Neighborhoods; Jill Madajczyk, City Attorney's Office; Dr. Stephen Tower, President; Dr. Jennifer Clay, Jeanne Chancellor, secretary.

Dr. Clay made a motion that the October meeting minutes be accepted; the motion was seconded by Jeanne Chancellor. The motion passed.

Jill Madajczyk reported that the ordinance to allow livestock to be adopted rather than auctioned was before the City Council. This ordinance will allow for disposition of livestock as soon as the legal hold on the animals is over. They can be immediately adopted by the public or adopted by rescue.

The ordinance requiring pre-payment to the shelter for costs involved with housing of dangerous dogs being held for court cases and housed by the city has been approved in the first reading. If the payments are not made in schedule the animals will become property of the city.

There is an ordinance being worked on to allow the Memphis Shelby County Humane Society to write tickets for ordinance violations. These animals would be housed at the Humane Society rather than the Memphis Animal Shelter.

It is also being looked at for the shelter to write citations for state level violations. At the present time police have to be called for assistance for state level charges to be written. The police have to raise the city charges to state charges at the present time. The police have to be involved in a case that involves state charges now.

An ordinance which would raise the boarding fees to \$15.00 a day for animals housed at the shelter has been passed in committee. This will help offset the actual cost of housing animals that are not property of the city and are housed in the Memphis Animal Shelter. The charge now is \$7.00 a day which does not come close to covering the cost to the city of maintaining the animals while they are housed in the shelter system.

Charging for FOIA request for people abusing the system is being considered. There would be charges for the actual time involved in researching the requests. At the present time 80% of the FOIA requests received by the city are requests concerning the animal shelter. Other cities have had this policy in place. 99.5% of the FOIA requests in the Public Services and Neighborhoods are made involving the animal shelter.

The use of GPS systems in the animal control trucks was discussed. The use of GPS would increase the safety of the Animal Control Officers as their location would be available in problem calls, and it would also give a means to know what truck is where when there is a need to verify calls made. All in all this would be a big plus for the safety of the officers in the field and for verification purposes if needed.

A motion as made by Dr. Clay and seconded by Jeanne Chancellor that the city provide GPS in all animal control vehicles for the officers' safety in the field and to be able to track where the trucks are in the field. The motion passed.

The possibility of employees having ties to dog fighting made in the Rotary Club Report was discussed.

A motion was made by Jeanne Chancellor and seconded by Dr. Clay that the city follow-up on Mayor Wharton's pledge that the allegations in the Rotary Club Report of connections to dog fighting by employees at the Memphis Animal Shelter be fully investigated as quickly as possible.

The motion passed.

The next meeting will be a public meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the Main Library.

Dr. Tower had to leave the meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jeanne Chancellor and seconded by Dr. Jen Clay.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Chancellor

Secretary